



## Lectuer4: Relative pronouns, relative clauses

**Relative pronouns:** are used to connect clauses or phrases to nouns or pronouns, providing more information about them. The most common relative pronouns are:

1. **Who:** Refers to people.
  - **Example:** The teacher **who** helped me is retiring.
2. **Whom:** Also refers to people but is used in formal contexts, often as the object of a verb or preposition.
  - **Example:** The student to **whom** I spoke was very insightful.
3. **Whose:** Indicates possession.
  - **Example:** The artist **whose** painting won the award is well known.
4. **Which:** Refers to animals or things.
  - **Example:** The book, **which** I borrowed, was fascinating.
5. **That:** Can refer to people, animals, or things and is often used in restrictive clauses.
  - **Example:** The car **that** I bought last year is blue.

### Example:

Who: The musician **who** performed last night was amazing.

Whom: She is the author **whom** I admire the most.

Whose: The scientist **whose** research changed the field received an award.

Which: The project, **which** was due last week, was completed on time.



That: The cake **that** she baked was delicious.

### Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using the correct relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, which, that).

1. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ teaches math is very helpful.
2. The book \_\_\_\_\_ you lent me was intriguing.
3. I met a woman \_\_\_\_\_ travels around the world.
4. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ barked all night kept us awake.
5. The scientist \_\_\_\_\_ discovered the cure was honored.

### Exercise 2: Combine Sentences

Combine the following pairs of sentences using a relative pronoun.

1. The car is new. It belongs to my sister.
2. I saw a movie. It was really scary.
3. The girl is my best friend. She lives next door.
4. The teacher is very kind. We had her last year.
5. The house is for sale. It has a large garden.

**Relative clauses:** are dependent clauses that provide additional information about a noun in a sentence. They often begin with relative pronouns such as **who, whom, whose, which, or that**.

There are two main types of relative clauses: **restrictive and non-restrictive**.



## 1. Restrictive Relative Clauses

These clauses are essential to the meaning of the sentence; they specify which noun you're talking about and do not use commas.

### Example:

- The book **that I borrowed** is fascinating.  
(*This specifies which book.*)

## 2. Non-Restrictive Relative Clauses

These clauses add extra information but are not essential to the meaning of the sentence; they are set off by commas.

### Example:

- My brother, **who lives in New York**, is visiting us.  
(*This adds information about the brother but isn't necessary to identify him.*)

### Examples of Relative Clauses

- **Restrictive:** The car **that I want** is red.
- **Non-Restrictive:** The car, **which is red**, is parked outside
- **Restrictive Relative Clause:** The dog that barks is mine.
- **Non-Restrictive Relative Clause:** My sister, who loves cats, has three of them.



## Practice Exercise

Try creating sentences using restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses.

1. Write a sentence with a restrictive relative clause about a hobby you enjoy.
2. Write a sentence with a non-restrictive relative clause about a family member.